SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1926.

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British Medical Association.

CURRENT NOTES.

Dr. Brackenbury.

At the risk of intruding into the private life of a public man, we may briefly record the retirement from general practice of the Chairman of the Representative Body, whose work for the British Medical Association and conspicuous services on behalf of insurance practitioners have made his name familiar to the whole medical profession. Dr. H. B. Brackenbury's departure from Hornsey after thirty-four years of arduous practice there has been the occasion of a striking tribute to his character and abilities in the editorial columns of a well informed local newspaper. After setting out the main features of Dr. Brackenbury's career, both in his profession and in public life, the *Hornsey Journal* says that in the affairs of the borough "there has been no man quite comparable with him, no one who has won so much honour for himself, or who has so much deserved to win it."

The Association's Annual Handbook.

The *Annual Handbook of the British Medical Association* for 1926-27 is now ready. Though primarily intended as a book of reference for honorary secretaries and other workers of the Association, the *Handbook* is also of interest and assistance to all members. The new edition has been completely revised. It contains the decisions of the Representative Body of the Association on questions of policy; information as to the constitution of the Association; particulars of the new London and Scottish Houses of the Association; information as to the British Medical Journal (the circulation of which is now 35,600 copies weekly) and other publications of the Association; and lists of the Council, Central Committees, officers, and officials of the Association. The *Handbook* also contains a great deal of general information as to the work of the Association. Copies can be had by members, gratis and post free, on application to the Medical Secretary, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. To non-members the book is on sale at 3s. 6d. (post free 3s. 9½d.).

Official Gazettes of the Colonies and Protectorates.

Members interested in the medical services of the Colonies or Protectorates enumerated below are reminded that the last available copy of the official gazette of each of these Colonies and Protectorates can be seen in the Library of the British Medical Association at the Head Office in Tavistock Square:

British Guiana	Nigeria
Dominica	Nyasaland
Federated Malay States	Sierra Leone
Fiji	Straits Settlements
Gambia	Tanganyika
Gold Coast	Trinidad (and Tobago)
Hong-Kong	Uganda
Jamaica	Zanzibar
Kenya	

These gazettes are withdrawn from the Library when later issues are received, but any matter of general interest to the medical members of the services can be followed up on reference to the Medical Department of the Association.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions.

Metropolitan Counties Branch: Kensington Division.

Chairman's Address.

At a meeting of the Kensington Division, on October 22nd, the chairman, Dr. H. H. Sanguinetti, read his inaugural address on "The general practitioner and the consultant."

Dr. Sanguinetti said that he presumed to address the Division on the subject of "The general practitioner and the consultant" because, although himself a general practitioner, many years' connexion with a hospital as pathologist had resulted in some of his medical friends using him as a consultant. Therefore he was acquainted with the inside of each of these not opposing but allied camps.

He found medicine so interesting that he would not be unhappy if restricted to one branch of the subject; but his interest in patients always gained the upper hand, and general practice gave more scope for such interest. He pleaded for increased facilities for the general practitioner's work. The failure of the general practitioner to avail himself of modern means of diagnosis and treatment might mar the life of a patient and bring sorrow to relatives and friends. But, though Dr. Arthur Shadwell, writing recently in the *Times*, maintained that the present well trained general practitioner was in a manner an "all-round specialist," this did not lessen greatly the need for the consultant and the specialist; it merely increased the usefulness of the general practitioner in his proper sphere, and enabled him to arbitrate on the views expressed by the various consultants. The general practitioner's position was at the front; not obstinately usurping the functions of those called in to assist him, but co-operating with them to the best of his ability and resolutely declining to take a back seat. For this, however, the family doctor must keep well abreast with medical progress, and have something more than a nodding acquaintance with some at least of the special branches of medicine and surgery. There was a tendency, especially in surgery, for some general practitioners to have over-confidence in their abilities, and to undertake lines of treatment and operations which were really beyond their skill and capacity. Possibly

SHREWSBURY: SALOP MENTAL HOSPITAL.—Second Assistant Medical Officer (male). Salary £500 per annum, rising to £550.

THROAT HOSPITAL, Golden Square, W.1.—(1) Secretary Superintendent; salary £500 per annum, rising to £700. (2) House-Surgeon; salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

TRURO: ROYAL CORNWALL INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary £170 per annum.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road, W.6.—Physician.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The following vacant appointments for Certifying Factory Surgeons are announced: Dulverton (Somerset), St. Andrews (Fifeshire), Tiverton (Devon), Richmond (Surrey). Applications to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

This list of vacancies is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Tuesday morning.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

War Section.—Mon., 5 p.m., Colonel J. W. West, R.A.M.C.: Peace-time Military Surgery.

Section of Therapeutics and Pharmacology.—Tues., 5 p.m., Discussion: The Biological Standardization of Remedies; to be opened by Dr. H. H. Dale. Drs. J. H. Burn and J. W. Trevan will take part.

Section of Psychiatry.—Tues., 8.30 p.m., Professor George M. Robertson: An Analysis of the Decrease in the Number of Deaths from General Paralysis in England and Wales.

Section of Surgery: Subsection of Proctology.—Wed., 4 p.m., Specimens. 5.30 p.m., Presidential Address by Mr. J. P. Lockhart-Mummery: Non-malignant Tumours of the Colon and Rectum. A discussion will follow. There will be a collection of specimens of non-malignant tumours of the colon and rectum, excluding diverticulitis.

Section of Neurology.—Thurs., 8.30 p.m., Clinical Meeting at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

Clinical Section.—Fri., 5 p.m., Cases.

Section of Ophthalmology.—Fri., 8 p.m., Cases. 8.30 p.m., Discussion: Macula Colobomata; to be opened by Mr. Malcolm L. Hepburn. Miss Ida Mann and Mr. R. C. Davenport will also take part. Drawings illustrating the condition will be shown by Mr. Rayner Batten.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.—Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m., FitzPatrick Lectures by Dr. Arthur Shadwell: Medicine in Ancient Assyria.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.—Thurs., 5 p.m., Bradshaw Lecture by Mr. E. W. Hey Groves: Reconstructive Surgery of the Hip-joint.

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY, Chemical Department, St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School.—Mon., 5 p.m., Communications—J. Needham: Rhythm of Chemical Differentiation in Avian Embryos; E. M. Goldblatt: Acidosis and Alkalosis; W. J. Griffiths and H. MacLean: Regurgitation in Gastric Digestion; J. Lowndes: Estimation of Cystine in the Analysis of Proteins; R. H. A. Plimmer: Changes in Amino-Acids in Proteins of Hen's Egg during Development; J. H. Rosedale: Amino-Acids of Flesh; H. W. Dudley, O. Rosenheim, and W. W. Starling: Spermidine; W. J. N. Burch: Hydrolysis of Phosphoric Esters; R. H. A. Plimmer and W. J. Burch: Action of Ethyl Metaphosphate on Alcohols, Ammonia, and Amino Compounds; J. G. Davis and W. K. Slater: Metabolism of the Cockroach.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.—Fri., 5 p.m., Discussion: Suggestions as to the Modification of the Rules usually observed in the Management of Infectious Diseases in Boarding Schools; to be opened by Dr. A. I. Simey.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.—Mon., 8.30 p.m., Discussion: Sternal Pain; to be introduced by Dr. John Parkinson, followed by Mr. A. J. Walton.

WEST KENT MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, Miller General Hospital, Greenwich, S.E.10.—Fri., 8.45 p.m., Address by Mr. Harold Chapple, F.R.C.S.: Abdominal Pain in Women.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Special Lecture at the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W.1: Thurs., 5 p.m., Emergencies in Gynaecological Practice. Free to members of the medical profession. *Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital*, City Road: Thurs., 1 p.m., Clinical Demonstration. Free to members of the medical profession. *Chelsea Hospital for Women*, Arthur Street, S.W.: Fri., 2 p.m., Special Demonstration. Free to members of the medical profession. *Hampstead General Hospital*, Haverstock Hill, N.W.: Practitioners' course in medicine, surgery, and the specialties, 4.30 to 6 p.m. Clinical demonstrations and short lectures. Copies of the syllabuses of the above and information on post-graduate work generally may be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

LONDON SCHOOL OF DERMATOLOGY, St. John's Hospital, Leicester Square, W.C.2.—Chesterfield Lectures. Tues., 5 p.m., Diseases due to Animal Parasites. Thurs., 5 p.m., Eruptions due to Physical Causes.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL, Queen Square, W.C.1.—Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 2 p.m., Out-patient Clinics. Mon. and Thurs., 5 p.m., Methods of Examination of the Nervous System. Mon., 12 noon, Pathology of the Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Papilloedema. Tues., 12 noon, Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Inco-ordination. Thurs., 3.30 p.m., Methods of Testing the Eighth Nerve. Fri., 3.30 p.m., Treatment of Poliomyelitis. Operations: Tues. and Fri., 9 a.m.

NORTH-EAST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15.—Mon., 2.30 p.m., Special Demonstration of Medical Cases; 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Gynaecological Clinics; Operations. Tues., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, Throat, Nose, and Ear Clinics; Operations. Wed., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical Skin and Eye Clinics; Operations. Thurs., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinics; Operations. Fri., 2.30 p.m., Special Demonstration of Surgical Cases; 2.30 to 5 p.m., Surgical, Medical, and Children's Diseases Clinics; Operations.

POST-GRADUATE HOSTEL, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Tues., 9 p.m., The Output of the Heart in Health and Disease. Thurs., 9 p.m., Epiphyses.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Wed., 4 p.m., Industrial Psychology applied to the Home.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Hammersmith, W.6.—Mon., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Genito-urinary Operations, Skin Department, Surgical Ward Visit, Demonstration of Fractures; 2 p.m., Surgical Wards, Gynaecological and Eye Departments. Tues., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lecture on Clinical Methods, Demonstrations in Venereal Diseases and Chest Cases; 2 p.m., Medical Wards, Throat, Nose, and Ear Department. Wed., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Children's Medical Out-patients, Medical Wards, Demonstration in Medical Pathology; 2 p.m., Surgical Wards, Eye Department. Thurs., 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Neurological Department; 2 p.m., Eye and Genito urinary Departments; 3 p.m., Gynaecological Wards. Fri., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Gynaecological Operations, Skin, Dental, and Electrical Departments, Lecture on Modern Methods in Medicine; 2 p.m., Throat, Nose, and Ear Department. Sat., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bacterial Therapy and Children's Medical Out-patient Departments. Daily at 2 p.m., Medical and Surgical Out-patients, Operations.

GLASGOW POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Royal Infirmary: Wed., 4.15 p.m., Medical Cases.

JAMES MACKENZIE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, St. Andrews.—Tues., 4 p.m., Treatment of Arterio-sclerosis.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—Thurs., 4 p.m., Common Congenital Malformations.

MANCHESTER: ANCOATS HOSPITAL.—Thurs., 4.15 p.m., Indications for Tonsillectomy. Tea at 3.45.

MANCHESTER: ST. MARGARET'S HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.—Wed., 4 p.m., Methods of Insufflation of the Fallopian Tubes in Sterility, and a demonstration of the apparatus used.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Tues., 4.15 p.m., Lloyd Roberts Lecture. Dr. W. E. Gye: An Outline of the Knowledge gained by the Experimental Study of Cancer. Fri., 4.15 p.m., Oral Cancer.

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY POST-GRADUATE CLINICS.—At Royal Infirmary: Fri., 3.30 p.m., Surgical Clinical Cases.

British Medical Association.

OFFICES, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1.

Departments.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS (Financial Secretary and Business Manager. Telegrams: Articulate Westcent, London).

MEDICAL SECRETARY (Telegrams: Medisecra Westcent, London).

EDITOR, *British Medical Journal* (Telegrams: Aitiology Westcent, London).

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SCOTTISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 6, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh. (Telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh. Tel.: 4361 Central.)

IRISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin. (Telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin. Tel.: 4737 Dublin.)

Diary of the Association.

NOVEMBER

9 Tues. London: Organization Committee, 3.30 p.m.
London: Propaganda Subcommittee, 12 noon.
Lanarkshire Division: Infant Welfare Centre, Motherwell. Dr. J. R. Riddle on X Rays in Diseases of the Alimentary Canal, 8.30 p.m.
St. Pancras Division: B.M.A House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. Professor G. E. Gask on Gastric Ulcers, 9 p.m.
West Dorset Division: Weymouth and District Hospital. Discussion on Asthma, 8 p.m.

10 Wed. Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch: Clinical Meeting, Ruchill Fever Hospital, Maryhill, Glasgow, 3 p.m. Annual Dinner, Ferguson and Forrester's Restaurant, 36, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, 7 p.m.
North Northumberland Division: Alnwick Infirmary. Dr. W. Fordyce on Pitfalls in Gynaecology, 6 p.m. Annual Dinner, Plough Hotel, Alnwick, 7.
Reigate Division: Clinical Meeting, East Surrey Hospital, 4.30 p.m.

11 Thurs. London: Charities Committee, 2.30 p.m.
London: Committee on Tests for Drunkenness, 3.30 p.m.
Dumfries and Galloway Division: County Buildings, Dumfries, 3 p.m.
Hampstead Division: Northcourt Hospital, College Crescent. Dr. H. Batty Shaw on Tubercle Bacillus or Phthisis Bacillus, 8.30 p.m.
Portsmouth Division: Queen's Hotel, Southsea. Dr. Robert Hutchison on Asthma in Childhood, 9.30 p.m. Supper, 9.
Swansea Division: General Hospital, Swansea, Clinical Meeting, 8.15 p.m.

12 Fri. London: Science Committee, 2 p.m.
City Division: Clinical Afternoon, Metropolitan Hospital, 4.15 p.m.
Northern Counties of Scotland Branch: Clinical Meeting, Northern Infirmary, Inverness, 3 p.m.
Mid-Essex Division: Chelmsford Hospital, 3 p.m. Executive Meeting, 2.45.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcement of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 9s., which sum should be forwarded with the notice not later than the first post on Tuesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

BIRTHS.

AMEEN.—At "Victoria-Dale," Rangoon, Burma, on October 5th, 1926, to O. S. Ameen, the wife of Dr. M. N. Ameen, Chief Medical and Health Officer, M. Y. S. Jamal's Firm, a daughter.

HOPKINS.—On October 27th, to Lady Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (*née* Lucy D. Cripps), wife of Sir Richard Hopkins, K.C.B., of Leatherhead, a son.

MOORE.—On October 25th, 1926, at Malta, the wife of Surgeon Commander Maurice Sydney Moore, M.D., D.P.H., R.N., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CORNER—JUST.—On November 1st, at Cairo, William Corner, O.B.E., M.D. Aberd., D.T.M. and H.Lond., Iraq Health Service, to Marjorie Katharine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Just, Wimbledon, S.W.

HURRELL—LIMONT.—On October 28th, at St. Luke's, West Norwood, George Hurrell, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.Dunelm, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hurrell of North Shields, to Margaret Evangeline, second daughter of the late James Limont, M.R.C.P., of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Mrs. Limont of West Norwood.

TOWNSEND—DEVLIN.—On October 14th, at Maiden Lane Church, Strand, W.C.2, Attwell Allen Townsend, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., N.U.I., Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force Medical Service, to Cecilia Columba Devlin, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H., N.U.I., Mental Hospital, Cork.

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placed little or no reliance on drugs, but laid stress on the patient receiving a greater proportion of fat in his diet, either by milk, eggs, butter, or the old-fashioned cod-liver oil, and fresh air. In many cases artificial pneumothorax was productive of the greatest benefit and enabled the patient to continue at work. Dr. Guy showed the artificial pneumothorax apparatus and also an interesting series of x-ray films.

A very interesting general discussion ensued, after which the CHAIRMAN warmly thanked Dr. Guy for his interesting address.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: HYDE DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Hyde Division was held on October 28th in Hyde Town Hall. There was a good attendance. The subject of B.M.A. Charities was discussed, and it was felt that in this matter there should be uniformity among Divisions. In order to further this it was decided to recommend to the Branch that the annual subscription per member to the Charities Fund should be half a guinea and that the collection of this should preferably be made by banker's order.

Mr. A. J. RODOCANACHI, M.D., F.R.C.S., then gave a most interesting address on indications for Caesarean section. He gave memories going back for thirty-three years, and compared the old method of using craniotomy forceps with the more recent method of Caesarean section. The indications were divided into five groups: (1) obstructive labour, (2) placenta praevia, (3) eclampsia, (4) malpresentations, (5) at the moment of the death of the mother. Induction of labour was compared with Caesarean section to the disfavour of the former. The lecturer prided himself in being unorthodox and in having performed Caesarean section in cases where there had been previous intervention, even prolonged instrumental intervention, and that in forty odd cases where most of them were of such a type he had only had four deaths.

A short discussion afterwards followed, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Rodocanachi for his address.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WILLESDEN DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Willesden Division was held on October 20th, when Mr. HAROLD T. MANT read a paper dealing chiefly with the indications for operation in the course of suppuration of the middle ear. The indications for paracentesis in acute cases were discussed, and this operation was suggested for the treatment of cases in which, in spite of spontaneous rupture of the membrane, the resulting perforation was inefficient. The signs and symptoms upon which a decision for the need of drainage of the mastoid process depended were analysed. In chronic cases it was first of all urged that all sources of reinfection should be eliminated, including the nose, naso-pharynx, pharynx, and the mouth. Reinfection might follow uninstructed treatment through the meatus. The question of operation in these chronic cases was dealt with by considering certain common clinical phenomena, the special significance of each, either alone or in conjunction with others, being pointed out. Among the significant points considered were: pain and headache, facial paralysis, vertigo, polypi, acute and subacute manifestations in the mastoid process, and intracranial complications. The points under this last heading which might lead to an early diagnosis were dealt with in detail. It was emphasized that the most serious complications often occurred without the slightest evidence to draw any attention to the ear or mastoid process. Mr. Mant received a hearty vote of thanks for his interesting paper.

MIDLAND BRANCH: KESTEVEN DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Kesteven Division was held at Mrs. Barton's Restaurant, Stamford, on October 14th. After enjoying the hospitality of the chairman at luncheon, an address was given by Mr. A. LAWRENCE ABEL, F.R.C.S., entitled "Some points in the early diagnosis and treatment of acute abdominal disease." The lecturer raised some interesting points, both in the diagnosis and treatment, and a discussion ensued in which a number of members took part. The fact that Stamford is at the extreme limit of the Division probably accounts for the rather poorer attendance than was obtained at a similar meeting last year.

NORFOLK BRANCH: EAST NORFOLK DIVISION.

A GENERAL meeting of the East Norfolk Division was held in the Medical Library, Norwich, on October 27th, when Dr. KEELING was in the chair.

The HONORARY SECRETARY reported the views of the Branch Council on the organization of appeals for medical charities, and after discussion it was decided that he should undertake the collection of charities subscriptions, the scattered nature of the Division make the working of a Charities Subcommittee very difficult.

The HONORARY SECRETARY reported that negotiations with the Norfolk County Council on the question of mileage at coroners' inquests had resulted in the county council allowing first-class railway fare, or 6d. a mile each way where rail transport was not available. The honorary secretary was instructed to notify members to this effect.

The report of the Executive Committee and recommendation on the scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers was adopted, and it was decided to recommend the Branch to take corresponding action under the Branch Ethical Rules.

The representative to the Annual Representative Meeting presented his report on the Annual Representative Meeting, Nottingham, 1926, which was adopted. The Treasurer's Cup golf competition was considered, and on the proposal of Dr. JAMES, seconded by Dr. HENDRIE, it was agreed that the honorary secretary should collect entries and arrange with entrants the form which the first or Divisional stage should take.

The capitation rate for non-insured persons for 1927 was considered, and it was resolved that the minimum rate remain at 14s. for adults and 6s. for children, the honorary secretary being instructed to circularize members to this effect.

The HONORARY SECRETARY suggested that it might be possible to improve the membership in Great Yarmouth by holding a non-business meeting open to both members and non-members. It was decided that the matter should be considered by a subcommittee.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.

A MEETING of the Northern Counties of Scotland Branch was held in the Palace Hotel, Inverness, on October 29th, when the President, Dr. E. K. MACKENZIE, was in the chair. Dr. S. CAMERON (Glasgow) delivered a British Medical Association Lecture on accidental haemorrhage and placenta praevia. The lecture was much appreciated by an audience of thirty-six members. After a short discussion on some of the points raised by the lecturer, a vote of thanks to Dr. Cameron was adopted on the motion of Dr. F. MACDONALD, President-Elect.

After the meeting members of the Branch to the number of thirty dined together, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. During the course of the dinner the PRESIDENT expressed a hope that the members should make every effort to be present at the clinical meetings of the Branch to be held during the winter. On the motion of Dr. GILLIES it was decided that the secretary should be instructed to write to Dr. Balfour, a very regular attender at meetings of the Branch, conveying to him the regret of those present at his absence on account of ill health, and their hope for his speedy recovery.

PERTH BRANCH.

A MEETING of the Perth Branch was held on October 15th. There was an attendance of eighteen. It was arranged to present an illuminated address to Dr. Hunt, who has been in practice over fifty years. The annual dinner was fixed for Wednesday, November 17th. The SECRETARY read several communications from headquarters in London. The meeting resolved to compete in the golf competition.

SURREY BRANCH: CROYDON DIVISION.

AN ordinary meeting of the Croydon Division was held at Riddington's Restaurant, Sutton, on October 28th, when Mr. E. M. COWELL, D.S.O., was in the chair. The honorary secretary was instructed to convey the sympathies of the members of the Division to Dr. E. Hulse Wiflock (for some years a secretary of the Division), whose wife had recently died.

Dr. F. HERNAMAN-JOHNSON gave an address on "Ultra-violet rays: their place in medicine," and showed a case of scleroderma which had been cured, and cases of chorea, rickets, glands, and lupus which had greatly improved under treatment. Dr. GORDON PUGH made some interesting remarks on sunlight treatment, and other members took part in the discussion.

A very hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Hernaman-Johnson concluded the meeting.

SOUTH-WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: SWANSEA DIVISION.

THE annual dinner of the Swansea Division was held on October 14th at the Hotel Metropole, when Dr. H. R. FREDERICK (Port Talbot), chairman of the Division, was in the chair. The principal guest was Mr. C. G. GILBERTSON, J.P., chairman of the Hospital Board, who has closely identified himself with matters medical and who belongs to a family which has done much good in the district for many years. His speech was greatly appreciated. The toast of the British Medical Association, proposed by Mr. GILBERTSON, was responded to by Dr. DANIEL E. EVANS. The other toasts were proposed by Dr. A. CLARKE BEGG, O.B.E., and Mr. C. L. ISAAC, F.R.C.S. There was a very good attendance.

Association Notices.

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.—A meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch will be held at Bath on Wednesday, November 24th.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: COVENTRY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Coventry Division will be held on Tuesday, December 7th, when Dr. P. C. Cloake will read a paper on endocrine therapy.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: NUNEATON AND TAMWORTH DIVISION.—A meeting of the Nuneaton and Tamworth Division will be held at the Tamworth General Hospital on Thursday, November 25th. Dr. L. G. Parsons will read a paper on some problems of nephritis in children.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Division will be held in the Royal Infirmary, Dumfries, on Thursday, December 2nd, at 3 p.m., when Professor Hume of Newcastle-on-Tyne will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on the recognition and treatment of cardiac arrhythmia, illustrated with lantern slides. Tea will be provided.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—A meeting of the Dundee Branch will be held on Thursday, November 25th, at 4.15 p.m., in University College, Dundee, when a British Medical Association Lecture will be given by Professor D. Murray Lyon (Edinburgh) on the value of basal metabolic rate estimations in clinical work. Members of other Branches are invited.

some surgeons had contributed to this result by seeming to claim that all but the most minor surgical operations should be undertaken only by the surgical specialist. Specialization was an early development in medicine. Even in the time of Hippocrates there were a few practitioners who devoted themselves to the treatment of certain maladies, such as those of the eyes and teeth. During the Alexandrian period certain men were celebrated as obstetricians or gynaecologists. According to Herodotus, specialism was carried to unparalleled lengths in Egypt, where there were specialists for every organ. Consultants and specialists now formed a very important body in the profession, and the advice of Alexander of Tralles—to look upon the patient as a besieged city, and try and rescue him with every means that art and science placed at our command—should certainly be accepted. Rhazes observed that "the patient who consults a great many physicians is likely to have a very confused state of mind." But Rhazes also said: "Physicians ought to console their patients even if the signs of impending death seem to be present." And it could do nothing but good for the practitioner to have his position confirmed by a sound consultant. In the fifteenth century one of the rules of the Military Guild of Surgeons laid down that a consultation with a Master must be held over every major operation. Under the rules of the Oxford Guild, founded in 1348, surgeons were ordered to get consultations in all difficult cases.

Dr. Sanguinetti was of opinion that consultants should not be expected, as the result of one examination, to reach a definite opinion on a case which had puzzled the intelligent family doctor for weeks. If it was recognized that in the interest of the patient more than one visit from the consultant was advantageous, some solution of the question of fees would be found, possibly by insurance. The consultant should be called in early, that he might see the patient at that stage of the disease in which his advice was likely to be most beneficial. But here Dr. Sanguinetti would enter the caveat that all conditions which the modern surgeon claimed as his special province were not undeniably his. When the diagnosis was clear the practitioner might still need the help of a consultant in treatment. Unfortunately consultants did not seem to have made so close a study of treatment as they had of diagnosis. If the general practitioner was not well acquainted with the line of treatment he had agreed to adopt, he should arrange that the treatment should be supervised—not taken over—by the consultant who had recommended it. Success in treatment meant attention to detail, and the necessary detail was apt to be overlooked by anyone not fully acquainted with the method.

The objections of general practitioners to calling in a consultant were due mainly to the following considerations: First, consultants were said to be not really helpful. But in such a case the general practitioner had either asked too much of the consultant, or he was incapable of benefiting from the latter's advice. That the careful general practitioner would often be helped very much in diagnosis by a solitary visit from a consultant was improbable. But on occasion diagnosis had been helped even by a solitary consultation with an able physician or surgeon, especially when for some reason or other the practitioner had come to an erroneous conclusion, which prejudiced everything else that passed later under observation; and also in those cases of rare diseases, such as multiple myelomata and subacute mixed degeneration, which the general practitioner could not reasonably be expected to recognize. Secondly, it was said that patients were too fond of running to consultants, or of calling them in. In the West End of London this was undoubtedly the case. Patients and their relatives were always seeking for authoritative pronouncements, forgetting that these clever men could not be all-clever. This tendency in patients was difficult to deal with. As long as they would consent to consult physicians and surgeons from a list recommended by the medical attendant no great harm was done. But when patients, without advising him of their intention, slipped off to seek specialist advice, trouble for the family doctor and for the patient was likely to follow. Patients were very prone to seek out just those men whose specialty coupled with the word "merchant" so aptly described them. Whatever form of merchandise these specialists dealt in, they were usually at the same time "hot-air merchants." However, it was well for both the consultant and the general practitioner to remember the words of the American physician, "Don't believe what the patient said the other doctor said; he never said it." Patients were often set on obtaining an independent opinion, often suspected collusion between the general practitioner and the consultant, and did not recognize how very faulty opinion might be when not based on the previous observation of a trained medical practitioner. Dr. Sanguinetti thought it might be worth serious consideration whether the greatest good would not accrue to the community if those who wished to be regarded as consultants refused to see any patient not recommended to them by a general practitioner. Such a rule would not exclude the consultant from attending from the outset of his illness any patient who desired thus to avail himself of his services. Another objection raised by the family doctor to the consultant was that so many consultants were engaged in general practice on their own account. Dr. Sanguinetti saw no objection to this custom as long as the consultant demanded proportionately higher remuneration than the general practitioner, adhered strictly to the rules of medical etiquette, and did not filch patients sent to him by the general practitioner. If there were patients who desired, and could afford, the services of the hospital physician there was no reason why they should be debarred from having them. But it would be well if consultants would recognize their limitations; it would be better, for example, for an eminent neurologist not to undertake the treatment of a case of phlebitis, even if the patient were a rich man, for such a condition would probably be best treated by an experienced general practitioner. Such behaviour did not help to develop the spirit of co-operation between general practitioner and consultant which it was so desirable should be inculcated. It behoved general practitioners and consultants to seek to attain perfect co-operation between the two branches of the profession, and to consider carefully any obstacles there might be to the attainment of so desirable an objective.

Aberdeen Branch.

The annual meeting of the Aberdeen Branch was held in the Palace Hotel, Aberdeen, on October 29th. Dr. Geddie, the retiring president, was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

After approval of the minutes of the summer meeting the council's report for the year and the treasurer's report were read and approved. Dr. W. Clark Souter and Dr. J. A. Stephen were appointed auditors.

The following office-bearers for the year 1926-27 were elected:

President, Dr. Skinner (Skene). *President-Elect*, Professor R. G. McKerron (Aberdeen). *Vice-President*, Dr. Watson Geddie. *Treasurer*, Dr. Levack. *Secretaries*, Dr. T. Fraser and Mr. F. K. Smith.

After the meeting the members and guests to the number of forty dined in the hotel, and after dinner an address was given by Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing on the contribution of medical science to administration of the law, with special reference to evidence in court. The address was a very able, lucid, and instructive one, and traversed in a short space of time a large number of interesting and difficult problems connected with certification of the insane, poisoning cases, motor accidents, workmen's compensation cases, etc.

In the subsequent discussion Professor Mackintosh, Dr. Lawson (Banchory), Dr. Rorie (Cults), and the President took part.

Sheriff Laing was very heartily thanked by the members, who had thoroughly enjoyed his illuminating paper.

Dorset and West Hants Branch.

The autumn meeting of the Dorset and West Hants Branch was held at the Burlington Hotel, Bournemouth, on October 30th, when fifty-two were present. The following were elected officers, to take office in May next:

President, Dr. Grey-Edwards. *Vice-Presidents*, Drs. Morse and Oliphant. Dr. McCall was reappointed Secretary.

Dr. Grey-Edwards read a paper on intravenous medication, which was followed by a discussion.

Dr. Johnson Smyth read a paper on his experiences on the Italian medical tour of 1925. Before the meeting the Bournemouth members were entertained to lunch, and afterwards Dr. How White entertained all visitors to tea.

Edinburgh Branch: South-Eastern Counties Division.

An ordinary meeting of the South-Eastern Counties Division was held at Newtown St. Boswells on October 27th.

With reference to nursing arrangements in Berwickshire, Dr. Dobson formally reported the result of the deputation to the Joint Medical Officers Committee on September 7th. He said that the medical representatives were not called upon to express any opinion and that the whole matter seemed to be *in statu quo*. A letter was read from the county clerk of Berwickshire, stating that his council had agreed to extend an invitation to the Association to any meeting of the council when anything of interest to the medical profession in connexion with the nursing service was expected to be discussed.

A letter was read from Dr. John Stevens, honorary secretary of the Edinburgh Branch, thanking the South-Eastern Counties Division for their hospitality at Innerleithen. Dr. Muir (Selkirk) and Dr. McWhan were nominated members of the Finance Committee and Executive Committee respectively in connexion with the Annual Meeting of the Association at Edinburgh in 1927. The return of Dr. Fairfax to the Scottish Committee was announced.

Dr. John Guy, deputy medical officer of health and tuberculosis officer for the city of Edinburgh, then gave a most interesting address on pulmonary tuberculosis, with special reference to home treatment. He first referred briefly to diagnosis, dealing more especially with the pitfalls that were apt to beset the practitioner. He said that the only certain indication of pulmonary tuberculosis was the presence of tubercle bacilli in the sputum, but this was at times only found after prolonged search. Out of twenty-seven men in one of his classes who searched for tubercle bacilli in the sputum of one particular patient, tubercle bacilli were only obtained by one man. He also warned practitioners against attributing too much importance to dullness, as that might have occurred very much earlier in the patient's life. Laryngeal involvement was very apt to mask actual physical signs in the chest. For his part, he laid the greatest stress on the presence of moisture persisting for a period of three weeks. As regards treatment, he

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: PLYMOUTH DIVISION.—The annual meeting of the Plymouth Division will be held at Goodbody's Restaurant, Bedford Street, Plymouth, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 4 p.m. Tea will be kindly provided by the chairman of the Division, Dr. Percy Thomas. Agenda: Election of officers for the ensuing year; annual report of the Executive Committee, and special report as to minimum commencing salaries of public health medical officers; consider the business of the Annual Representative Meeting; make, alter, or repeal rules, if necessary; consider the 1d. in the £ hospital scheme and its abuse; consider question of medical charities.

SURREY BRANCH: CROYDON DIVISION.—A meeting of the Croydon Division will be held at the Croydon General Hospital on Tuesday, November 23rd, at 8.30 p.m. Mr. Gwynne Williams will read a paper on surgical emergencies of general practice.

SURREY BRANCH: GUILDFORD DIVISION.—The following programme of meetings has been arranged by the Guildford Division to be held at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, at 4 p.m. (tea served at 3.45):

Dec.	2nd.	Sir James Berry: The Dyspnoea caused by Goitre, and its Treatment.
Jan.	6th.	Clinical meeting.
Feb.	3rd.	Mr. T. P. Dunhill: The Diagnosis of Gall Stones.
March	3rd.	Demonstration of cases.
April	7th.	Mr. R. H. Joscelyn Swan: Haematuria.
April	28th.	Dr. J. A. Ryle: Modern Views on Diathesis.
May	5th.	Clinical meeting.
June	2nd.	Annual meeting.

SURREY BRANCH: KINGSTON-ON-THAMES DIVISION.—The annual dinner of the Kingston-on-Thames Division will be held at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston, on Friday, November 19th, at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Charge 7s. 6d. (exclusive of wines), to be paid at the restaurant. Ladies and medical guests will be welcomed. Members proposing to attend are asked to notify the honorary secretary, Dr. J. Douglas Clarke, 14, Queen's Road, Kingston Hill, as early as possible.

SURREY BRANCH: REIGATE DIVISION.—At the meeting of the Reigate Division to be held at the East Surrey Hospital on Tuesday, December 14th, at 8.45 p.m., Dr. Hugh Barber will give an address on the treatment of some common diseases of the skin.

SUSSEX BRANCH: BRIGHTON DIVISION.—A clinical meeting of the Brighton Division will be held at the Children's Hospital, Brighton, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 3.45 p.m.

SUSSEX BRANCH: CHICHESTER AND WORTHING DIVISION.—The autumn dinner of the Chichester and Worthing Division will be held at Warne's Hotel, Worthing, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 7 p.m. Official guests representing public authorities in the area will again be invited.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.—A meeting of the West Somerset Branch will be held at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, Taunton, on Tuesday, November 16th, at 4.30 p.m. Dr. Herbert French will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on "A series of small points." The annual West Somerset medical dinner will take place at the County Hotel, Taunton, the same evening at 7.30. Dr. J. A. Macdonald will take the chair at both events.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: DEWSBURY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Dewsbury Division will be held at the Batley and District Hospital on Tuesday, December 7th, by invitation of the medical staff.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: HUDDERSFIELD DIVISION.—The medical dance will be held on Wednesday, December 1st, in the Royal Infirmary, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; reception, 8.45 p.m. For those who do not wish to dance, a bridge drive, commencing at 9.15 p.m., will be arranged. Tickets 7s. 6d.; admission by programme. As the dance will only be held if a sufficient number of tickets are sold, members are requested to apply for tickets before November 20th.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: LEEDS DIVISION.—A meeting of the Leeds Division will be held in the Medical School, Thoresby Place, Leeds, on Thursday, December 2nd, at 8.15 p.m., when Dr. Herbert French will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on a series of points of practical importance in treatment. All medical men in Leeds and district are invited.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: ROTHERHAM DIVISION.—The annual dinner of the Rotherham Division will be held at the Crown Hotel, Rotherham, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 7.15 p.m. Official guests, representing public authorities in the area, have been invited, and the Medical Secretary, Dr. Alfred Cox, has promised to be present. Tickets (price 12s. 6d.) to be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mr. W. S. Wildman, Eastwood House, Rotherham.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: SHEFFIELD DIVISION.—At a meeting of the Division to be held at the University, Sheffield, on Friday, December 10th, at 8.30 p.m., a British Medical Association Lecture will be delivered by Sir James Purves-Stewart, K.C.M.G., on hydrocephalus. The lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides and also by a cinema film.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT, AND CASTLEFORD DIVISION.—A meeting of the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Castleford Division will be held at the Bull Restaurant, Westgate, Wakefield, on Thursday, November 18th. Dr. A. E. Pearson (medical officer to the Leeds Fever Hospitals) will read a paper on diagnosis of infectious diseases. Supper at 7.45 p.m. (price 2s. 6d.).

National Insurance.

INSURANCE ACTS COMMITTEE.

ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES FOR 1926-27.

THE following direct representatives upon the Insurance Acts Committee were elected unopposed for the Groups mentioned:

Group C.
Dr. G. B. Hillman, M.B.E. (Wakefield).
Dr. G. H. Sedgwick (Thrybergh, near Rotherham).

Group E.
Dr. J. C. Davies (Wrexham).
Dr. W. E. Thomas (Ystrad Rhondda).

Group G.
Dr. T. Ridley Bailey (Bilston).

Group H.
Mr. E. Lewis Lilley, F.R.C.S. (Leicester).

Group I.
Dr. J. Steed (Hereford).

Group J.
Dr. D. G. Greenfield (Rushden).

Group L.
Dr. H. C. Jonas (Barnstaple).

Group N.
Dr. C. H. Panting (Leytonstone).
Dr. H. Rose (Wendover).

Group O.
Dr. H. J. Cardale (London).
Dr. E. A. Gregg (London).

In the contested Groups—namely, A, B, D, F, K, and M—the results were as follows, the votes being counted upon the single transferable vote system and verified by the Proportional Representation Society:

Group A.
Dr. C. E. Douglas (Cupar, Fife). *Elected.*
Dr. J. G. McCutcheon (Glasgow). *Elected.*
Dr. J. Orr (Edinburgh).
Dr. D. Lyon Stevenson (Larkhall, Lanarks).
Dr. J. Wilson (Irvine, Ayrshire).

Group B.
Dr. R. H. Dix (Sunderland). *Elected.*
Dr. G. F. Shepherd (South Shields)

Group D.
Dr. H. F. Oldham (Morecambe). *Elected.*
Dr. R. G. McGowan (Manchester). *Elected.*
Dr. F. Radcliffe (Oldham). *Elected.*
Dr. T. Miller Wilson (Liverpool).

Group F.
Dr. C. J. Palmer (Mansfield). *Elected.*
Dr. C. Frier (Grantham).

Group K.
Dr. T. MacCarthy (Sherborne). *Elected.*
Dr. H. H. Warren (Southsea).

Group M.
Dr. E. R. Fothergill (Hove). *Elected.*
Dr. J. J. Day (Canterbury). *Elected.*
Dr. S. Morton Mackenzie (Dorking).

Scottish Subcommittee.

The following four members of the Scottish Subcommittee elected by the members of Scottish Burgh Panel Committees were returned unopposed:

Dr. G. W. Miller, D.S.O. (Dundee).
Dr. J. Todd (Glasgow).
Dr. W. Lawson (Glasgow).
Dr. J. Orr (Edinburgh).

A contest took place in connexion with the election of the four members of the subcommittee by the members of the County Panel Committees, with the following result:

Dr. D. E. Dickson (Dolgelly). *Elected.*
Dr. W. R. Martine (Weston). *Elected.*
Dr. J. Wilson (Irvine). *Elected.*
Dr. R. Bruce, D.S.O. (Cults). *Elected.*
Dr. J. W. Little (Newmains).
Dr. G. C. Burgess (Forfar).

ALFRED COX,
Medical Secretary.

LONDON PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the London Panel Committee, with Dr. H. J. CARDALE in the chair, took place on October 26th. The resignation of two members of the committee—Dr. H. H. Mills and Dr. G. de Rynck—owing to inability to attend the meetings was accepted. The appointment of a standing liaison committee, consisting of representatives of the Panel and Insurance Committees, was agreed to. It was felt that a better understanding between the two committees would be engendered and the administration of the service generally facilitated by the setting up of such a body. The Panel

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH: EAST YORK DIVISION.—At the meeting of the East York Division to be held on Friday, November 19th, Dr. S. Cameron will deliver a lecture.

ESSEX BRANCH: MID-ESSEX DIVISION.—A general meeting of the Mid-Essex Division will be held in the Board Room, Chelmsford Hospital to-day (Friday, November 12th), at 3 p.m. Agenda: Report on scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers, and recommendation to adopt resolution under Ethical Rules; question of appointing a consultant for cases of puerperal pyrexia presenting difficulties; demonstration of x-ray photographs by Dr. L. M. Billingham, radiologist to the Chelmsford Hospital. An executive meeting will be held at 2.45, immediately prior to the general meeting.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.—The opening meeting of the session 1926-27 of the Gloucestershire Branch will be held on Thursday, November 18th, at the General Hospital, Cheltenham, at 6.15 p.m. Presidential address on Nephritis: modern teaching on its nature and treatment. There will be a supper at the Cadena Café after the meeting (5s. each, exclusive of wine). Members proposing to be present at the supper are asked to notify the honorary secretary.

KENT BRANCH: MAIDSTONE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Maidstone Division will be held at the West Kent General Hospital on Thursday, November 18th, at 3.30 p.m. Dr. H. Wolseley-Lewis will discuss the report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders, with special reference to the difficulties of certification in border-line cases.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: ST. HELENS DIVISION.—A meeting of the St. Helens Division will be held at the Fleece Hotel on Tuesday, November 16th, at 4 p.m.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: SOUTHPORT DIVISION.—The Southport Division will hold a social evening on Thursday, November 18th, at the Royal Hotel, on the same lines as the similar function last year—namely, a dance and bridge. The price of the tickets will be 10s. each, and any balance will be handed to the B.M.A. Charities Fund.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: CITY DIVISION.—The annual dinner of the City Division will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant at 7.30 p.m. on December 2nd. Tickets (12s. 6d.) can be obtained from the chairman, Dr. Harold Latham, 2, Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, or from the secretary. The next clinical afternoon in conjunction with the Aesculapian Society will take place to-day (Friday, November 12th), at the Metropolitan Hospital, 4.15 p.m. Tea at 4.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: HENDON DIVISION.—The next clinical meeting of the Hendon Division will be held at the Hendon Cottage Hospital on Friday, November 26th, at 8.30 p.m. Agenda: Receive report of representative; consider recommendation of Executive that the Division adopt a resolution in relation to the scale of minimum commencing salaries; address by Mr. Norman C. Lake, D.Sc., M.S., F.R.C.S., surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, on recent experiences of American surgery.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: LEWISHAM DIVISION.—A meeting of the Lewisham Division will be held at the Town Hall, Catford, S.E.6, on Tuesday, November 16th, at 8.45 p.m. Lieut.-Colonel Charles Thomson will occupy the chair. Dr. Maurice Davidson will give an address entitled "Toxaemia and its investigation in practice."

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: MARYLEBONE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Marylebone Division will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Wednesday, November 24th, at 8.15 p.m., when a discussion on "Life assurance—doctors, companies, and fees," will be opened by Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., to be followed by various medical examiners for insurance companies. Representatives of assurance companies have accepted an invitation to attend.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ST. PANCRAS DIVISION.—A meeting of the St. Pancras Division will be held at the British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on Tuesday, December 14th, at 9 p.m. Dr. C. H. Andrewes will give an address on recent work on filter-passing viruses.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—The following programme of meetings to be held at St. John's Hospital, Twickenham, has been arranged for 1926-27:

Dec. 8th. 3.15 p.m., General business. 3.30 p.m., Dr. J. Crone, deputy coroner for West Middlesex, will open a discussion on medico-legal points. Tea will be provided.

Feb. 9th. 8.15 p.m., General business. 8.30 p.m., Dr. A. B. Porteous, assistant clinical bacteriologist at St. Mary's Hospital, will give a paper on transfusion immuno-transfusion of blood.

March 9th. 8.15 p.m., General business. 8.30 p.m., Dr. J. B. Cook, medical superintendent of the West Middlesex Hospital, will open a discussion on treatment of cancer by non-operative means.

April 6th. 3.15 p.m., General business. 3.30 p.m., Dr. John Bell (Hammersmith) will read a paper on some difficulties met with in midwifery practice. Tea will be provided.

May 4th. 8.15 p.m., General business; election of officers; report of the representatives and of the honorary secretary.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH-WEST ESSEX DIVISION.—A meeting of the South-West Essex Division will be held at the Wesleyan Schoolrooms, High Road, Leyton, on Tuesday, December 7th, at 3.30 p.m. Dr. A. E. Gow will give an address on infections of the urinary tract.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: STRATFORD DIVISION.—A general meeting of the Stratford Division will be held in the Board Room, Educational Offices, The Grove, Stratford, on Tuesday, November 16th, at 9.15 p.m. Agenda: Report on scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers, and recommendation to adopt resolution under Ethical Rules. Discussion: The relationship of the general practitioner to the hospital; to be opened by Mr. H. S. Souttar, C.B.E., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., surgeon to the London Hospital. It is hoped that all general practitioners, as well as members attached to the various types of hospitals, will endeavour to attend and take part in the discussion.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WANDSWORTH DIVISION.—A meeting of the Wandsworth Division will be held at Stanley's Restaurant, 237, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, to-day (Friday, November 12th), at 9 p.m., when Mrs. Marie C. Stopes, D.Sc., will deliver a lecture entitled "Contraception from the medical and sociological aspects." A discussion will follow. Coffee at 8.30 p.m. All medical practitioners in the district are invited to attend.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN DIVISION.—A meeting of the Westminster and Holborn Division will be held at Romano's Restaurant, Strand, on Thursday, November 25th, at 8.45 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by dinner at 7.30 p.m., the price of which will be 5s., payable to the honorary secretary at the table. Agenda: Report of Executive Committee as to the scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers. Sir Charles Ballance, K.C.M.G., C.B., will open a discussion on the surgical treatment of paralysis of the face and vocal cords. Sir David Ferrier, Dr. James Collier, Sir Frank Colyer, Mr. Walter Spencer, Mr. Herbert Tilley, and Dr. Risien Russell have promised to take part, and it is hoped that members will make a special effort to be present.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WILLESDEN DIVISION.—A meeting of the Willesden Division will be held at the St. Andrew's Schools, High Road, Willesden Green (High Road entrance), on Wednesday, November 17th, at 9 p.m. Agenda: Correspondence, etc.; paper: The problem of rheumatism and rheumatic heart disease in children, by Dr. Reginald Miller, honorary secretary to the Association's Special Committee on Rheumatic Heart Disease in Children (see SUPPLEMENT, July 3rd, 1926); question of medical fees in the district: Dr. Lock.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.—A meeting of the North of England Branch will be held at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday, November 18th:—2.15 p.m., Professor T. Beattie: Causes and localization of cerebral haemorrhage; 3 p.m., Professor H. B. Angus: Sprains and their treatment; 3.45 p.m., tea; 4 p.m., Mr. Harvey Evers: Prevention of difficult and complicated labour; 4.30 p.m., Mr. W. J. Harrison: Diagnosis of mastoiditis.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: BISHOP AUCKLAND DIVISION.—At the meeting of the Bishop Auckland Division to be held on Friday, November 26th, Dr. Hindmarsh (Newcastle-on-Tyne) will read a paper on the etiology and treatment of some common varieties of goitre.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: DARLINGTON DIVISION.—The annual dinner of the Darlington Division will be held in the Imperial Hotel, Darlington, on Tuesday, November 16th, at 8.15 p.m. The guests of the Division will be Sir Robert Bolam and Dr. James Hudson of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Tickets 11s. 6d. Members are requested to notify Dr. W. W. Forsyth, honorary secretary (Netherlaw, Darlington), the number of tickets required as soon as possible. Guests may be brought.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: SUNDERLAND DIVISION.—The annual address before the Sunderland Division will be given by Mr. G. Grey Turner, F.R.C.S., at the Royal Infirmary, on Thursday, November 25th, at 4.30 p.m., entitled "Thoroughness in surgery." The annual dinner will be held the same evening at the Palatine Hotel, Sunderland, at 7 for 7.15 p.m. Applications for tickets (price 10s. 6d.) should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, 7, Otto Terrace, Sunderland, as soon as possible. A clinical evening will be held at the Monkwearmouth Hospital on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7.30 p.m. All members are invited to be present.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.—A clinical meeting of the Northern Counties of Scotland Branch will be held at the Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on Friday, December 3rd, at 3 p.m.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: PORTSMOUTH DIVISION.—A clinical meeting will be held on Thursday, November 25th, at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital (Out-patient Department) at 3 p.m. As many members as possible are asked to exhibit cases, so as to make the meeting a success and of general interest. The procedure will be as follows: Examination of clinical cases in the out-patient department at 3 p.m.; tea (provided by members of the staff of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital) at 3.45; discussion (in the Board Room of hospital) at 4. The meeting will conclude punctually at 5 o'clock. Members are asked to inform the clinical secretary (Mr. C. A. Scott Ridout, 37a, Clarendon Road, Southsea) whether they intend to be present at the meeting and at tea, and also whether they will be showing cases.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: SOUTH-WEST WALES DIVISION.—A meeting of the South-West Wales Division will be held at the Carmarthenshire Infirmary, Carmarthen, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 3 p.m., when Sir John Lynn-Thomas, K.B.E., F.R.C.S., chairman of the Division, will give an address on gleanings from the story of the thyroid gland. After the meeting tea will be provided by the kindness of the matron of the Carmarthenshire Infirmary.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: SWANSEA DIVISION.—A meeting of the Swansea Division will be held at the General Hospital, Swansea, on Thursday, November 25th, at 8.15 p.m. A discussion on goitre will be opened by Dr. A. C. Begg (medical), Mr. C. L. Isaac (surgical), and Dr. A. F. S. Sladden (pathological). Each opener will be limited to fifteen minutes.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: EXETER DIVISION.—The next meeting of the Exeter Division will be held to-day (Friday, November 12th), at 3.45 p.m., in the Library of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital; 3.45 p.m., tea; 4 p.m., lecture by Dr. Charles Miller on gastric haemorrhage. On December 10th Dr. Eager will lecture at the Devon Mental Hospital, Exminster, on toxic exhaustion psychoses.

fee for drugs and dispensing, and this in spite of the fact that Dr. Williams-Freeman proved that the increase was ridiculously inadequate.

If there be anyone at headquarters who is at all interested in the welfare of the rural panel doctor, will he kindly inform us whether this threepenny question was laid before the Rural Practitioners' Subcommittee or not. If it was, did the subcommittee approve of accepting it? If it was not, what was the subcommittee set up for?

The rural panel doctor not only supplies drugs and dispenses them, but he often has to pay the carriage on them to distant panel patients, the cost of which will not be covered by the extra 3d.—at any rate in my case.—I am, etc.,

November 2nd. BORDERER.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Surgeon Commanders F. G. Hitch to the *Canterbury*; H. M. Langdale to the *President*, additional for course at R.A.F. Medical School of Instruction and to the *Pembroke* for the *Argus*; A. H. Joy to the *President* for Medical Department, Admiralty, temporary additional; M. W. Haydon to the *Tiger* on recommissioning.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander E. Heffernan to the *Vivid* for the *Adventure*.

Surgeon Lieutenants G. S. Rutherford to the *Canterbury* and to the *Victory* for Haslar Hospital, temporary; J. F. H. Gaussen to the *Badminton* on recommissioning; J. C. Souter (short service) transferred to the permanent list; J. K. G. Way to the *Hawkins*; W. T. Donovan to the *Pembroke* for the *Argus*; J. A. Cusack to the *Dahlia* on recommissioning, and to the *Cornflower* on relief for passage home; J. C. Sinclair to the *Triad* on relief; R. C. Foster to the *Effingham*; P. J. Maguire to the *Tiger* on recommissioning.

Mr. H. H. Fisher has entered as Surgeon Lieutenant and appointed to Haslar Hospital for course.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

Surgeon Lieutenants W. Caithness to the *Conquest* for fourteen days' training; F. E. Stabler (probationary) to the *Benbow* for twenty-eight days' training.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Colonel H. B. Fawcus, C.M.G., D.S.O., K.H.P., late R.A.M.C., to be Major-General.

Major J. J. Magner is restored to the establishment.

Major A. G. Biggin, O.B.E., is seconded for service under the Foreign Office.

The following Captains to be Majors: H. S. Milne, M.C. (prov.); Q. V. B. Wallace, M.C.; F. C. Chandler, M.C.; T. F. Kennedy, O.B.E.; A. Jackson, with precedence next below H. N. Sealey, January 24th, 1925 (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, February 10th, 1925); J. W. C. Stubbs, D.S.O., M.C., January 30th, 1926, with precedence next below S. M. Hattersley, M.C. (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, February 12th, 1926); G. D. Jameson, August 7th, 1926, with precedence next below E. F. W. Grellier (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, August 20th, 1926); J. G Ronaldson, M.C., August 10th, 1926, with precedence next below R. A. Hepple, M.C.; W. D. Arthur, August 15th, 1926, with precedence next below H. Walker, M.C. (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, August 24th, 1926); K. P. MacKenzie, August 16th, 1926, with precedence next below J. P. Little (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, August 27th, 1926); R. R. G. Atkins, M.C., August 28th, 1926, with precedence next below F. S. Gillespie (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, September 3rd, 1926); R H. Leigh, M.C., September 10th, 1926, with precedence next below J. R. Hayman; J. H. G. Hunter, September 11th, 1926, with precedence next below J. R. N. Warburton, M.C. (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, September 17th, 1926); W. G. Shakespeare, with precedence next below O. J. O'B. O'Hanlon; O. C. Link; E. E. Holden, September 16th, 1926; R. G. Martyn, with precedence next below W. H. Cornelius, September 18th, 1926; R. H. Hodges, M.C., with precedence next below S. D. Robertson, September 21st, 1926 (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, September 24th, 1926); H. W. Browne, M.C., with precedence next below F. R. Fletcher, September 30th, 1926 (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, October 5th, 1926).

Captain A. P. Draper, M.C., is seconded for service under the Colonial Office..

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE.

Flight Lieutenants T. V. O'Brien to Headquarters, Irak; F. T. Allen to R.A.F. Depot, Uxbridge; R. W. White to Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment, Martlesham Heath; F. P. Schofield to Palestine General Hospital.

Flight Lieutenant T M. Walker is transferred to the Reserve, Class D.2.

Flying Officers P. D. Barling to 208 Squadron, Egypt; M. J. Morren to Station Headquarters, Upavon; H. Penman to R.A.F. Depot, Uxbridge.

Flying Officer N. I. Smith ceases to be seconded to the King's Cross Hospital, Dundee.

Flying Officer G. J Hanly is promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

H. Penman is granted a short-service commission as a Flying Officer, for three years on the active list.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

The services of Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Fraser are replaced at the disposal of the Government of Madras.

Major W. J. Simpson, an officiating Agency Surgeon, is posted as Agency Surgeon in Bhopal.

The promotion of Major Frederic Allan Barker, O.B.E., is antedated from July 27th, 1919, to January 27th, 1919.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Major C. D. Mathias, having attained the age limit, is retired, and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform.

Captains to be Majors: J H. Cobb, E. L. Sandiland, H. T. Bates, O.B.E.

Major G. Young, late R.A.M.C., T.F., to be Captain, with precedence as from April 19th, 1915, and relinquishes the rank of Major.

Lieutenant H. V. Forster, M.C., to be Captain, with precedence as from February 5th, 1926.

J. W. Eames to be Lieutenant.

COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Drs. B. D. Merrin and T. C. Wakefield appointed Medical Officers, Malayan Medical Service. Drs. R. Mackay, D. Plum, and G. R. C. Wilson transferred from Lindi to Tanga, Dar-es-Salaam to Tabora, and Dar-es-Salaam to Dodoma respectively (Tanganyika). Dr. C. R. Selous Jones appointed Medical Officer, Nyasaland, on probation. Drs. I. G. MacGregor, J. C. Paisley, and H. M. O. Lester appointed Medical Officers, Nigeria. Dr. C. R. H. Chell appointed Deputy Director of Sanitary Service, Uganda. Drs. P. S. Bell and J. H. M'Donald appointed Medical Officers, Tanganyika. Dr. G. E. H Le Fanu, Medical Specialist, Medical Department, Gold Coast, has retired on pension.

VACANCIES.

ACCRINGTON VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary £150 per annum.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.—House-Surgeon (male). Salary £150.

BRIGHTON COUNTY BOROUGH MENTAL HOSPITAL, Haywards Heath.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary commencing at £300 per annum.

BRIGHTON: ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Casualty House-Surgeon (unmarried). Salary £120 per annum.

CALCUTTA: PRESIDENCY COLLEGE.—Professor of Physiology. Salary Rs.650, rising to Rs.1,000 per calendar month, *plus* overseas pay of £15 per month for first two years, and subsequently £25 per month.

CANCER HOSPITAL, Fulham Road, S.W.3.—Junior Radiologist. Salary £500 per annum.

CARLISLE NON-PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £300 per annum.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C.2.—(1) Assistant Physician. (2) Resident Medical Officer. (3) Resident Anaesthetist. Salary for (2) £400 per annum, and for (3) £100

DUBLIN: ROYAL CITY OF DUBLIN HOSPITAL.—Visiting Surgeon.

ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON HOSPITAL, Euston Road, N.W.1.—(1) House-Physician. (2) Obstetric Assistant. (3) Two House-Surgeons. Females. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum.

EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Southwark, S.E.1.—House-Surgeon. Salary £120 per annum.

HASTINGS: ROYAL EAST SUSSEX HOSPITAL.—Honorary Assistant Surgeon,

JOHANNESBURG: UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND.—Professor of Physiology. Salary £1,000 per annum, rising to £1,100.

LEICESTER CITY.—Resident Medical Officer (male) for the Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium, Groby Road. Salary £350 per annum.

LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Honorary Radiologist.

LIVERPOOL: HAHNEMANN HOSPITAL.—Non-resident Stipendiary Medical Officer. Salary £125 per annum.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—Eighth Assistant Medical Officer (male) in the Mental Hospitals Service. Salary £300 per annum, rising to £400.

LONDON FEMALE LOCK HOSPITAL, Harrow Road, W.9.—Honorary Obstetric Surgeon.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—Associate Examiner for the M.B., B.S. Examinations in Medicine (four), Obstetric Medicine (two), Pathology (two), Surgery (five).

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY.—Professor of Anatomy. Salary Rs.1,450 per mensem.

MALAY STATES.—Radiologist. Salary £700—35—£1,120 per annum.

MANCHESTER CITY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—Assistant Medical Officer at the Baguley Sanatorium (unmarried). Salary £250 per annum.

MARGATE: ROYAL SEA BATHING HOSPITAL FOR SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.—Salary at the rate of £200 per annum.

METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.—Junior Assistant Medical Officer at the Downs Hospital for Children, Sutton. Salary £500 per annum.

MILLER GENERAL HOSPITAL, Greenwich Road, S.E.10.—(1) Assistant Physician. (2) Two Assistant Surgeons.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL, Queen Square, W.C.1.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £200 per annum.

NORWICH: NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL.—Casualty Officer and House-Surgeon (male). Salary £120 per annum.

OXFORD: RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY AND COUNTY HOSPITAL.—(1) Honorary Assistant Surgeon. (2) Honorary Assistant Physician to the Electro-therapeutic Department

PORTSMOUTH PARISH.—Third Assistant Resident Medical Officer for St. Mary's Infirmary, St. Mary's Institution and Children's Home. Salary £250 per annum.

PRESCOT UNION.—Non-Resident Assistant Medical Officer at the Institution, Whiston. Salary £300 per annum, rising to £400.

ROCHDALE UNION.—Assistant Resident Medical Officer (male) at the Birch Hill Hospital and Institution, Dearnley. Salary £250 per annum.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—(1) Three Members of the Court of Examiners. (2) Examiner in Dental Surgery.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.—(1) Medical, Gynaecological, and Surgical Registrars. (2) House-Surgeon to the Senior Surgeon and Surgeon in charge of the Nose, Ear, and Throat Department. (3) Second House-Surgeon. (4) Third House-Surgeon. (5) First House-Physician. (6) Assistant Casualty Officer. (7) Obstetric House-Surgeon. (8) Gynaecological House-Surgeon.

SALVATION ARMY.—Senior and Junior Resident Medical Officers for the Mothers' Hospital, Lower Clapton Road, E.5. Salary at the rate of £100 and £50 per annum respectively.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.—Pathologist in the Public Health Department. Salary Tls.600 per mensem.

SHREWSBURY: SALOP MENTAL HOSPITAL.—Senior Assistant Medical Officer (male). Salary £500 per annum, rising to £550.

SOUTH UIST PARISH, Inverness-shire.—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator. Salary £170 per annum. Other emoluments from private practice, etc., estimated at £450.

STOKE-ON-TRENT: NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ROYAL INFIRMARY.—House-Physician. Salary £150 per annum.

TRURO: ROYAL CORNWALL INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary £170 per annum.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road, W.6.—Physician.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The following vacant appointments are announced: Chichester (Sussex), Littlebourne (Kent), Penicuik (Edinburgh). Applications to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

This list of vacancies is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Tuesday morning.

Committee chose as its representatives Drs. C. L. Batteson, S. Caplan, H. J. Cardale, E. A. Gregg, and A. F. Heald. Representatives of the Panel Committee on the Medical Services Subcommittee were reappointed in the persons of Drs. Cardale and Chase, and, of the Local Medical Committee, Dr. Nets; with Drs. Gregg, Swan, and Traquair as deputy representatives.

Ophthalmic Benefit.

A discussion took place on the question of the draft letter prepared by the Insurance Acts Committee for the guidance of practitioners in replying to approved societies who asked for the reason why an insured patient was recommended to consult an ophthalmic surgeon (SUPPLEMENT, October 2nd, p. 158.) One member of the committee stated that he had received many of these letters from a certain approved society, and had in no case replied to the society itself, but he had instructed the patient to tell his society that the recommendation was made after the doctor had undertaken a careful examination. In such cases his patients had received the benefit according to the recommendation he had made. Dr. GREGG agreed as to the wisdom of the proposed reply to the societies, but he hoped it would not be used as a stereotyped form, and that practitioners would give the substance of it in their own words, otherwise the suspicion of a made-up case might be created in the minds of the approved societies. He added that this whole matter of ophthalmic benefit was now the subject of a conflict of ideals. Hitherto the medical profession had taken the view that the respective positions of doctor and optician were similar to those of doctor and chemist, but the opticians now were making the claim that the true parallel was, not that of doctor and chemist, but of doctor and midwife. Other members of the committee joined in the discussion, but no resolution was passed.

Postage of Medical Records.

The Insurance Committee some time ago resolved to discontinue the refund to practitioners of the cost of postage for the transmission to the committee of forms of medical record. It was now reported that the committee on reconsideration had decided to defer action, and that the refund for the present would be continued.

Hospital Savings Association.

The Panel Committee considered the position of the Hospital Savings Association in relation to general practitioner treatment, complaints having been received that in certain districts this body was encroaching on the province of practitioners by providing general practitioner treatment as distinct from hospital treatment. After full consideration, the Panel Committee decided to refer this matter to the Public Medical Service for London, taking the view that the service was more closely concerned with the question.

Public Medical Service for London.

A meeting of the central committee of management of the Public Medical Service for London was held, under the chairmanship of Dr. CARDALE, at the conclusion of the meeting of the Panel Committee. It was reported that the number of subscribers to the service was now 3,884. The names of six practitioners were reported as newly joining the service as active members. A resolution forwarded by the Wandsworth local committee was considered, and it was agreed that in certain selected cases members of the service in Wandsworth should be permitted to pay the entrance fee for the patient.

DR. W. A. WILSON of Manor Park has been appointed chairman of the East Ham Insurance Committee.

AT the annual meeting of the Reading Insurance Committee on November 5th Dr. G. H. R. Holden was elected vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

THE seventh annual dinner and dance of the London Panel Committee will be held at the New Princes' Galleries, Piccadilly, W.1, on Thursday, December 9th, at 8 p.m.; reception 7.30. The dinner and dance are open to all practitioners and their friends. Tickets, £1 1s. each (exclusive of wines), may be obtained from any member of the Committee, or from Dr. C. L. Batteson, the secretary of the Committee, 17, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Correspondence.

Panel Patients and Extra Fees.

SIR,—The Ministry of Health, the Insurance Committees, and the insurance companies have been exploiting the medical profession for some years, and the time is not far distant when the office boy at the beck and call of everyone in a large office will be the envy of the "panel doctor."

The Ministry of Health seems under the delusion that all the insured people are poor, and must on no account pay for any odd things such as certificates. It must get this idea out of its head; there are to-day practically no poor people. Of my panel patients quite a number have their own motor cars, and about 10 per cent. have motor cycles; most of the girls go to two dances a week and a couple of cinemas, and spend £3 a year with their hairdresser; most of the men back horses and attend football matches; and I was kept quite busy this summer signing passports for Continental trips for panel patients. The insured persons themselves do not object to paying fees for certificates, inoculation, and vaccination; they not only are prepared to pay for these things, but are astonished when they find they may not.

After all, English people as a rule are not fools, and they cannot expect everything for the small contribution they make. Compared with other insurances the amount is trivial, because during the time they are insured they are all bound to have some medical attendance. The average person insures his home for, say, £5 a year, and only one in several thousand ever receives anything back. There is very little "chance" about the National Insurance; every insured person, in the natural course of events, is certain to require some medical attendance. The sum of 9s. a head paid for this attendance is to-day worth about 4s. pre-war. Of course, the retort is, "If you are not satisfied, why be on the panel?" The answer is that the Government has taken our private patients and put them on the panel; and however much they may like us, in the present overtaxed state of the country, and with their outlay on sport, amusements, travel, etc., people are not going to pay twice for medical attendance. The point I want to lay stress on is that in my opinion they do not pay the doctors once. A considerable amount of the money paid by the public is used in red tape, in printing rules, and generally bullying the members of the profession. Much money is wasted in providing patients with doctors under the head of "temporary residents," and additional clerks have to be kept to carry on the necessary correspondence; surely if a patient is well enough to leave the neighbourhood of his panel doctor, and can afford to go away, he can also afford the few shillings necessary for medical attendance without all this ridiculous correspondence between different committees, adjustment of fees, etc. The fact is the Government has set out to do rather more for the insured persons than it is charging them for; it dare not ask them for any more for fear of losing their votes, so the medical man has to do twice as much work as he is paid for.

As one of those who, twenty-five years ago, started an agitation for a Ministry of Health, I pictured a Ministry which would be the friend of the profession as well as do its best for the public. The Ministry as at present constituted gives one the impression that the work, the worries, the trials of the panel doctor are nothing to it; the most highly trained body of men in the world is treated with less consideration than a parcel of office boys, simply because we are not great in number and have few votes. The majority of medical men must be on the panel or starve; there are not enough private patients left to keep them. But what of the future? If the Ministry puts more work on the doctor without more remuneration, what manner of man will take up the medical profession? Does it strike the Ministry that a panel doctor (unless he has also private practice) cannot, after paying his many expenses and income tax, make £700 a year; and who is going to wade through five years at the hospital, without pay and with heavy expenses, to make a paltry income like that, when by investing half the money and a few months' learning he can run a tobacco shop or a newspaper stall and make twice as much? If he likes to descend to a fried-fish shop he could afford to send his sons to public schools and the university.

Of course, we know medical men used to make on an average £500 and consider themselves lucky, but then in those days £500 would go further than £1,000 now. If the panel system is to be a success—and in the hands of a capable and broad-minded Minister it could be made so—the doctor must be paid well enough to free him from financial worries; he has quite enough worry with the patients—that is if he is a real man who wants to do his duty; and the panel doctor must not have quite so many masters. We have, at present, prepared to find fault with us at every turn, the patients, the Ministry, the Insurance Committee, the Panel Committee, and the insurance companies. The panel doctor who manages to steer through this stormy sea must be tireless, cheerful, humble, studious, and have the nerves and constitution of an ox; he must be skilful in all branches of his professional work; he must be prepared to fill in blue, pink, yellow, and buff forms at any minute, intermediate certificates, convalescent certificates, final certificates, death certificates, passports, out-of-work certificates, dental certificates, ophthalmic certificates, reports on cases; he must know the cost of drugs for fear he might order too expensive ones; the patients always give him as a reference, which means more forms; and anyone can engage this wonderful man and have him at his disposal (or he must provide a substitute) 365 days a year and for twenty-four hours a day for the sum of 9s. It's a wonderful world.—I am, etc.,

Leytonstone. ARTHUR T. TODD-WHITE.

Fee for Drugs and Dispensing.

SIR,—Rural panel doctors who dispense for their patients will read with mixed feelings that the Panel Conference accepted, somewhat abruptly, the Ministry's offer of 3d. increase in the